



TITLE: Bushfire Landscapes – mobilising affective practice for effective policy change

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Start text of Abstract Here (*no more than 200 words with no figures or tables*):

The concept of landscape-scale management is gaining momentum in international and Australian policy reform, indicating a more holistic approach in disaster risk and natural resource management (DRM/ NRM). However, our research in the contexts of bushfire management reform in Victoria, Australia, shows that policy and practice understandings of landscape remain entrenched in the techno-scientific discourses of DRM/NRM. This deterministic view of landscape foregoes the potential for profound and adaptive practice change in landscape management that is inherent in the concept's deeper cultural, socio-ecological and affective layers of meaning. As cultural landscape theorists argue, landscape is unthinkable without people, their experiences, practices and affective landscape engagements. More recently, an ethical perspective on landscape explicitly includes recognition of non-human agency to raise awareness for and understanding of the hybrid human-nature systems we live in and that require genuinely dialogical relationships between humans and nature. This paper explores how the 'new' landscape narrative can be mobilized for policy and practice change by producing a more holistic understanding of the complex socio-ecological fabric that is landscape. In doing so, we explore its dimensions and potential for alternative ways of living with fire and other landscape-scale disasters.